## Message Text

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EYES ONLY SECRETARY VANCE, DR. BRZEZINSKI, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, ENRG, NI, US

SUBJECT: NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER GARBA WORRIES ABOUT

US ENERGY POLICY

- 1. NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BRIG.
  JOSEPH GARBA DROPPED BY TO SEE ME LATE JUNE 22. AFTER
  A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN AFRICA HE ASKED
  FOR A PRIVATE WORD WITH ME. HE SAID HE AND OBASANJO
  HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NIGERIA NEEDS TO PROJECT A STRONGER,
  MORE INDEPENDENT VOICE IN AFRICA. THEY BELIEVE
  THAT ONLY BY CALLING THE SHOTS AS THEY SEE THEM WILL
  NIGERIA BE ABLE TO EXERT A CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE ON
  AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.
- 2. HE SAID THEY ARE WORRIED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LIBYANS AND OTHER ARABS MIGHT "PLAY GAMES" WITH THE FLOW OF OIL, MANIPULATING PRODUCTION AND PRICES TO USE THEIR OIL AGAINST NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POSITION. GARBA SAID NIGERIA NEEDS SOME ASSURANCES THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO BE A DEPENDABLE CONSUMER OF NIGERIAN OIL AND WILL BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE SECRET

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NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN CONTINUING SUPPORT OF NIGERIA'S AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.
HE ASKED A NUMBER OF GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LIKELY IMPACT ON US POLICY IN THIS REGARD OF THE ENERGY PACKAGE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT THINK THERE WERE
ANY PROBLEMS FORESEEABLE IN THE US POSITION AS A
CUSTOMER OF NIGERIA'S OIL I SPECULATED THAT BOTH
THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE LIKELY TO BE ENCOURAGED BY
NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD PROBABLY BE PREDISPOSED TO WORK WITH NIGERIA AGAINST ANY
POSSIBLE RADICAL ARAB REPRISAL. I POINTED OUT, HOWEVER,
THAT THE US MARKET IS MANAGED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY,
SO THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY CANNOT OFFER ABSOLUTE
GUARANTEES INTO THE FUTURE. NONETHELESS THE EXPANSION
GOALS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM TO PROJECT
CONTINUED GROWTH IN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND AN ONGOING
REQUIREMENT FOR NIGERIAN OIL. YOUNG

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